

Valentine's Day (A Critical Analysis)

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Allah the Most High says:

“O you who believe! Enter perfectly in Islam and do not follow the footsteps of Shaytan, verily he is to you a plain enemy.”
(al-Baqarah: 2:208)

Shaytan is tempting the mankind since the creation of Adam. He tempted and cheated Adam and Eve by making them believe that the tree which Allah had forbade them to go even close, will make them immortal like Allah, which resulted in their exile on Earth.

In every age, Shaytan is using different methods & tricks to deviate mankind from their actual path I.e., to worship Allah and follow his commandments.

Among the tricks which Shaytan is using to deviate youth is Valentine's Day. In this small treatise we will discuss its root, origin and Ruling in Islam.

Valentine's Day

Every year on 14th February a Festival is celebrated most often by youth from educated class known as Valentine's Day. On this day intimate companions get together and exchange gifts like flowers, greeting cards, chocolates, etc. They express love, emotions and feelings to one another.

On contrarily we say the love referred on this day is romantic love, taking lovers (Boyfriend and Girlfriend). It is known to be the day of promiscuity and sex for them with no restraint or restrictions. They are not talking of pure love between a man and his wife and a woman and her husband. This festival for them is a means for everyone to express love.

Expressing of feelings and emotions is not a justification for the Muslim to allocate a day for celebration based on his own thoughts and Ideas and to call it a festival or make it like a festival or Eid.

Origin of valentine's Day

According to Wiki encyclopedia “Saint Valentine's Day (commonly shortened to Valentine's Day) is a commemoration held on 14th of February, celebrating love and affection between

intimate companions. This day is named after one or more early Christian martyrs named Valentine and was established by Pope Gelasius in 500 A.D.

In early 4th Century B.C, the Romans engaged in an annual young man's rite of Passage to the god Luperecus. The names of teenage women were placed in a Box and drawn at random by adolescent men, thus a man was assigned a woman companion for their mutual entertainment and pleasure (most often sexual) for a duration of a year, after which another lottery was staged.

To put an end to this 800 year old practice the early Church Fathers sought "Lovers" saint to replace the deity Luperecus. They found a likely candidate **VALENTINE** a bishop who had been martyred 200 years earlier at that time.

In Rome in 270 A.D, valentine had enraged the mad emperor "Cladius II" an edict forbidding marriage. He felt married men made poor soldiers because they were compelled to leave their families for battle.

Valentine, a Bishop of Interamna, invited young lovers to come to him in secret, where he joined them in the sacrament of matrimony. Cladius learned of this man as "friend of lovers" and had the bishop (Valentine) brought to the palace on Feb. 270 A.D. Valentine was dubbed, stoned and finally beheaded.

After studying the History and Origin of Valentine's Day it has become clear that this day has got no basis in Islam. It was the festival of Roman pagans which was later adopted by Christians.

We will now look and study its ruling according to the Quran, Hadith, Ijma (Consensus) and Aqwaal (Sayings) of Scholars from past and present.

Forbiddance of Celebrating Valentine's Day according To the Quran

Allah the Most High says:

"This Day I have perfected your religion for you, completed my favor upon you, and have chosen for you Islam as your religion."
(al-Mai'dah: 5:3)

We have read previously that Valentine's Day is a Roman Pagan festival which was later established by Christian Bishop Pope Gelasius. This festival has no basis in Islam. Our Deen was completed on the Day when the verse of Surah al-Mai'dah mentioned above was revealed, now we cannot add nor can we subtract anything from it according to our own desires.

Allah the Exalted further says:

“To each among you has been prescribed by a law and a clear way.” (al-Mai’dah: 5:48)

Allah also says:

“For every nation we have ordained religious ceremonies which they must follow” (al-Hajj: 22:67)

This indicates that festivals are among the characteristics by which nations are distinguished and it is not permissible to celebrate the festivals of Ignorant and Mushriqeen (Polytheists).

Forbiddance of Celebrating Valentine’s Day according To the Hadith

After Quran, the Authority is Hadith. There are numerous Ahaadith guiding us regarding these matters. Prophet of Allah (صلي الله عليه وسلم) said:

“Every innovation is misguidance and all misguidance is in Hell-Fire”.¹

Linguistically innovation means a “newly invented matter”. The Shara’eeh definition of innovation (Bid’ah) is “a newly invented matter or way in religion without being supported by any authentic proof neither in its foundation nor in the manner in which it is performed”.

Valentine’s Day is not proven from any verse of The Quran or from any Hadith. So celebrating or getting involved in this type of act is innovation and every innovation is misguidance and all misguidance is in Hell-Fire.

Prophet (صلي الله عليه وسلم) said:

“Whoever imitates a people is one of them”.²

Prophet (صلي الله عليه وسلم) further said:

“Oppose the people of book i.e., Jews and Christians.”³

We know that Valentine’s Day is of Pagan origin and was established by Christians, thus it is compulsory for us not to get involved in it.

Forbiddance of Celebrating Valentine’s Day according To the Ijma

With regards to Ijma Ibn Taimiyah (رحمه الله) narrated that there was an agreement that it is Haram to imitate non-Muslims in their festivals at the time of companions of Prophet (صلي الله عليه وسلم).

¹ Sunan Nasa’ee: 1579. (Sahih)

² Sunan Abee Dawud: 4031 (Classed Sahih by Shaykh Albani in Irwa’ al-Ghaleel, 2691)

³ Musnad Ahmad: 2234. (Sahih)

Ibn Qayyim (رحمه الله) further narrated that there was scholarly consensus that it is Haram to imitate non-Muslims in their festivals.

Fataawa of Scholars

The scholars of our Time also forbade celebrating Valentine's Days.

Shaykh ibn Ulthaymeen (رحمه الله) when asked about celebrating Valentine's Day, replied: Celebrating Valentine's Day is not permissible because of the following reasons:

1. It is an innovated festival which has got no basis in Islam.
2. It promotes infatuation.
3. It calls for hearts to be preoccupied with foolish matters that are contrary to the way of Pious Predecessors (Salaf-as-Saalih) (رحمهم الله).

When Shaykh Abdullah ibn Jibreen (رحمه الله) was asked about Valentine's Day and he replied:

1. It is not permissible to celebrate these innovated festivals because it is an Innovation for which there is no basis in Islam which comes under the Hadith of Aisha (radhiallahu anha) according to which the Prophet (صلي الله عليه وسلم) said: **"Whoever introduces anything in this matter of ours will have to be rejected."**⁴
2. It involves imitating Kuffar, in a Hadith it says: **"Whoever imitates a people is one among them"**⁵
3. It results in evil and haram things such as wasting Time, Dancing, Singing, Unveiling and mixing of men and women.

Conclusion

After going through this small treatise we came to know that Valentine's Day has got no basis in Islam. In Islam a Husband loves his wife throughout the life at every occasion. He does not require a particular day to express his love. Getting involved in celebrating Valentine's Day is nothing but a trap of Shaytan.

To preserve our Identity and Dignity to attain Allah's love and acceptance in life and prosperity in the hereafter let us adhere to what pleases Him as He instructed in His book or His Messenger's Sunnah.

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⁴ Sahih Muslim: 1718

⁵ Sunan Abee Dawud: 4031 (Classed Sahih by Shaykh Albani in Irwa' al-Ghaleel, 2691)